



# *APD NEWS*

Public Information Office: (512) 974-5017

715 E. 8<sup>th</sup> St. Austin, Texas 78701

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Contact:** Public Information Office, 974-5017

### **APD to crack down on vehicles being stolen along the hike and bike trail**

APD Auto Theft Detectives have been working on several cases where vehicles are being stolen from parking areas along the Hike & Bike Trail on West Cesar Chavez. The owners of the stolen vehicles have been hiding their keys in what they believe to be secure locations.

In addition, there has been a city-wide increase where car burglars have been targeting Shopping Malls, Apartment Complexes, Day Care Centers and large parking facilities.

APD reminds folks to protect their vehicles from Auto Theft and Burglary of Vehicle by taking precautions that will make their vehicle less of a target:

- Take your keys – Nearly 20% of all stolen vehicles had the keys in them.
- Lock Your Car – Approximately half of all stolen vehicles were left unlocked.
- Park in well-lit areas – Over half of all vehicle theft occurs at night.
- Never Leave Your Engine Running – It is against the law in Texas to leave your keys in the ignition or your vehicle engine running. If convicted, you can be fined up to \$200.
- Don't leave valuables in plain view – don't make your car a more desirable target and attract thieves by leaving valuables in plain sight.
- Install protection devices – Ignition kill switch, fuel kill switch, visible steering wheel lock, alarms and vehicle tracking.

The APD Auto Theft Interdiction Project programs are funded through the Texas Automobile Burglary and Theft Prevention Authority to reduce auto and burglary theft in the State of Texas.

**Media advisory:** Detectives will be available for comment at 10:30 a.m. at the hike and bike trail behind Austin High School near Veterans Drive. Please call APD PIO if you plan to attend.

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